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North Korea's Nuclear Blast: What Does It Mean?

Stalinist Kim Jong Il has brought North Korea into the nuclear club. Headlines ask, "Who Can Stop Him Now?" Now that we know North Korea has nuclear devices, we ask, "What does this mean?"

by Darris McNeely

The 4.2 magnitude blast on Oct. 9 came in blatant defiance of world opinion and broke North Korea's promise (made several years ago) not to develop nuclear technology.

The result is a scary new world that has sent diplomats into scramble mode. It took several days for the United Nations Security Council to impose more sanctions that included a ban on "luxury goods," as if limiting sales of Louis Vuitton handbags in Pyongyang will change North Korea's present course!

The great fear is that other nations, Iran being first in line, will develop the ultimate weapon of mass destruction. Reports speculate that Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey may also push ahead with plans to develop a nuclear bomb. One former U.S. Defense Department official says, "The North Korean test blew a hole in the nonproliferation regime of Northeast Asia. I think this is bad news for the country, bad news for the region, bad news for the world" (*Time*, Oct. 23, 2006, p. 32).

Japan's reaction

Of immediate concern is whether North Korea's bomb would provoke South Korea and Japan to go nuclear. For decades both nations have enjoyed safety, peace and economic secu-



Reuters/KNS Korean News Agency

With a nuclear test Oct. 9, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has now officially joined the nuclear club, increasing tensions and uncertainties in the region.

rity under the protective umbrella of American military force.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice traveled to Japan and South Korea, reaffirming the strategic relationship (See "NORTH KOREA," page 3)



World News & Prophecy

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CURRENT EVENTS

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The mission of *World News and Prophecy* (WNP) is to provide United Church of God members and other interested persons with commentary and analysis of selected world news topics in the light of Bible prophecy. Its purpose is to help readers discern the times and increase their awareness and understanding of the answers Christ gave to His disciples' questions: "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3).

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"Whom heaven must receive until the times of

Restoration

of all things ..." ACTS 3:21

wnponline.org Filling the Gap

Events are taking place every day that are changing the shape of the world we have come to know. North Korea explodes a nuclear bomb. Russia makes a comeback as a world power. And terrorism in the Middle East pushes that region closer to a conflagration that threatens to drag the world into a final conflict. How do you understand what is happening and what it means for your future?

World News and Prophecy has a mission to help you understand the meaning of world events in the light of Christ's statement in Matthew 24:3. There Christ answered His disciples' question, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" Through commentary and analysis of selected world news topics, we strive to do this. But this publication only comes out monthly, and we realize there is a need to keep current on world events to help you understand the major trends.

Two years ago we started an online site, wnponline.org, to help fill that gap. On that site you will find links to a continually updated news source. You will also find a blog, short for web log, which is a brief commentary on events with links to news items and commentary. We also have a podcast, an easily downloaded MP3 file that you can listen to on your computer or a portable player, such as an iPod.

We are working to keep both these features current, informative and helpful for you. For those of you familiar with what is called an RSS feed, you can have both of these features automatically updated on your computer through your browser. Otherwise, you can read and listen by going to the Web site.

Four months ago we started a regular e-newsletter for our readers. This e-newsletter is sent directly to your e-mail inbox. It contains commentary on a current event with helpful links to past articles in *World News and Prophecy*, in-depth booklets and other sister publications. It is a helpful, useful e-newsletter. You can sign up at wnponline.org.

Below is what you will see when you go to our site:



Our site also has videos of prophetic topics presented by writers for *World News and Prophecy*. Throughout the year we give seminars in various cities, and you can have the benefit of watching these with a broadband connection. You'll find them under the tab labeled "videos."

Why not bookmark this site and make it your homepage on your browser? That way you will keep current with what we are producing and will not miss any information. You need the perspective offered by our commentary to stay grounded in a biblical worldview. *World News and Prophecy* is your source for that understanding.

—Darris McNeely



Darris McNeely

“NORTH KOREA,” (Continued from page 1)
and promise of American protection. Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso said that Japan “is absolutely not considering a need to be armed by nuclear weapons.”

This stance may change if the growing nationalistic feelings within Japan continue to rise. Newly installed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe heads a new breed of leaders not shackled by feelings of war guilt.

In fact, the day Mr. Aso made this statement, Prime Minister Abe testified to a parliamentary committee that Japan should begin debating going nuclear: “The reality is that it is only Japan that has not discussed possessing nuclear weapons, and all other countries have been discussing it.” Other high-ranking Japanese officials have called for an open debate on the issue.

Will America promote a nuclear Japan? World reaction will be interesting to watch. For the most part, Japan has adhered to the nonmilitarized portions of its postwar constitution. But it is a dynamic economy, a model Asian democracy and one of America’s closest and most dependable allies. This last fact will be key to world reaction should Japan announce its intention to develop a nuclear bomb.

China’s role

What is the role of China, the rising economic giant, in this Asian mix? China’s long-term ambitions are well served by North Korea playing the bad boy role. China has been content for North Korea to be part of President Bush’s “axis of evil.” This creates a convenient buffer between China and the American client states of South Korea and Japan. Both countries have American troops stationed within their borders and represent a significant obstacle to China’s ambition to dominate Asia.

China does not fear a nuclear North Korea; its nukes are pointed east, not west. But a nuclear Japan would alter the equation. China seems to have a longer memory of Japan’s war atrocities than Western nations do, and the prospect of Japan holding nuclear weapons strikes a chilling chord of fear within the Chinese soul. If Japan threatened to join the nuclear club if China didn’t pull the plug

on its support for North Korean nukes, China might well pull the plug. This may be the only way to reverse North Korea’s current path.

China’s desire to remove American influence from Asia is a long-held strategic goal. It moves relentlessly forward through many methods to dominate Asia, remove American influence and restore its ancient belief that it is the primary

opportunity to flex their muscles and political will. This is what North Korea has done in recent weeks.

Russia is doing the same in blockading air, rail, sea and postal services to the Republic of Georgia (a U.S. ally) over a series of espionage allegations. While seemingly insignificant, it illustrates Russian boldness in the face of American preoccupation in Iraq. Russia



Reuters/Frank Robichon/Pool

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (right) and Minister of State for Defense Fumio Kyuma (left) salute at the fleet review off Yokohama Oct. 29, 2006.

power at the center of the earth.

China has deliberately allowed North Korea to develop the bomb despite requests from America to prevent it from happening. China supplies North Korea with many of the components for its missile program and weapons of mass destruction (Constantine C. Menges, *China: The Gathering Threat*, 2005, p. 386).

Russia’s renewed power

The key to the immediate crisis is the U.S. nuclear umbrella and the perception of American power to hold together the present world order. If American influence and power retreats, the resultant vacuum would encourage further nuclear proliferation and threaten international security. Many nations already see American military involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq as a window of

feels it can move at will to secure its own interests, even when they conflict with those of the United States. The net effect is a weakening of American power.

Add to this the prospect of President George Bush becoming hamstrung by Democrats, should they win control of one or both houses of Congress. They could block the president’s foreign policy goals through their budgetary control. Seeing this, other nations would have a green light to push their agendas in critical regions of the world.

Are we seeing a decline in American power? What is the solution? Is it more “guns” or more “butter?” Will changing the political leadership alter the fortunes of the nation? Sadly, the answer is no. The problems are spiritual in nature, requiring a radical departure from the nation’s current moral course. Regardless of the outcome of the November elections, this



"No to Russian Fascism!" reads one sign during an anti-Russia protest in front of the Russian embassy in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, Oct. 12. Russia cut rail, air and postal links after Georgia briefly detained four Russians on spying charges.

trend of shifting world power will continue. The result will be a far different world from the one you and I have come to know.

North Korea's nuclear bomb blast means the world situation is heating up and we are living in momentous times. Other nations see gray hairs upon the American empire and are relentlessly moving to change the course of modern history.

Bible prophecy shows a coming time of trial for America, Great Britain and other English-speaking nations who have received great material blessings. The national sin of ingratitude has led our peoples to forget that the God of Abraham has provided us the physical blessings we have. America has a veneer of spirituality, but God's Word tells us that is not enough to merit continued protection and blessing.

For too long America has held the view that its exceptional position in the world is the result of its democratic form of capitalism alone. For too long America has worn its brand of spirituality like a protective blanket of security, yet it leads the world in exporting immorality via various media forms. For too long America has forgotten that God is the source of its national blessings. He

will soon call it to account for its sins.

The words of Jeremiah, God's prophet to Judah in its final days, apply to the scene before us today. "Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing that you have forsaken the LORD your God, and the fear of Me is not in you," says the Lord GOD of hosts" (Jeremiah 2:19).

Like Judah, America trusts in a hollow spiritual veneer that ignores God's law, which is the basis of true spirituality. Failing to embrace it will surely bring on God's judgment. Jeremiah stood in front of the Jerusalem temple, the symbol of Judah's religious life, and warned the people not to trust in tradition of the past for their immediate physical safety.

"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Do not trust in these lying words, saying, "The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these.'" For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent

blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.

"Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, "We are delivered to do all these abominations"? Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it," says the LORD" (Jeremiah 7:3-11).

God foretold the collapse of their world order unless they repented and changed. "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, My anger and My fury will be poured out on this place—on man and on beast, on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground. And it will burn and not be quenched'" (Jeremiah 7:20).

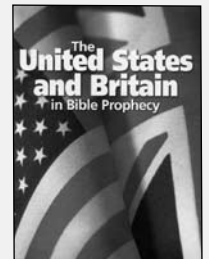
America, Great Britain and other Western nations are walking the same path as ancient Israel and Judah did. We are watching the beginning phases of a sea change on the world scene. It may not happen next month or next year, but it is taking place according to ancient prophecies revealed in your Bible.

Our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* will explain this subject in greater depth. Read it to understand what lies ahead and to gain greater insight into these momentous events of today's world. ❖

Recommended Reading

The United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and other English-speaking peoples have played a major role in modern world history. What does the Bible say about the role they will play in the future?

Request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*.



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Will Iraq Be America's Suez?

Until 1956 Great Britain was the dominant power in the Middle East. The Suez Canal crisis led to British withdrawal from the region. Could Iraq be America's Suez, forcing the United States out of the world's most volatile neighborhood?

by Melvin Rhodes

“It is just more than two centuries since Napoleon’s arrival in Egypt heralded the advent of a modern Middle East; but now—some 80 years after the demise of the Ottoman Empire, 50 years after the end of colonialism and less than 20 years after the end of the cold war—the American era in the region has ended.”

This paragraph begins an article by the president of the Council on Foreign Relations, Richard Haass, published in the *Financial Times*, in the Oct. 17, 2006, issue titled, “A Troubling Middle East Era Dawns.”

Mr. Haass was writing at a time of increased discussion of a major shift in U.S. policy on Iraq. There is a growing conviction among many that the war cannot be won. At the same time, U.S. public opinion is increasingly against the war.

Amidst all the uncertainty, one fact is becoming clear: The United States will at some point pull out of Iraq.

What the world appears to be witnessing now is the end of the American era in the Middle East, ironically exactly 50 years to the month after the British were forced out of the region in the aftermath of the Suez Canal crisis. Is America following Great Britain out of the region? If so, what kind of a Middle East will be left behind?

Continuing, Mr. Haass wrote: “Visions of a new Europe-like Middle East that is peaceful, prosperous and democratic will not be realized. Much more likely is the emergence of a new Middle East that will cause great harm to itself and the world.”

The Bible: U.S. absent from end-time Middle East

The Bible shows us that end-time events will be focused on the Middle East. Luke 21,



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Is the sun setting on U.S. involvement in the Middle East?

Matthew 24 and Mark 13 are three chapters in the Gospels that show Jerusalem as the central focus of end-time events. The last three chapters of the Old Testament book of Zechariah also describe in great detail events that will unfold in this part of the world.

Scripture also helps us see that the United States is absent in these end-time events. Rather, we see another major power, comprised of “ten kings” (or nations) that come together in a final resurrection of the Roman Empire.

This end-time “beast power” is prophesied in Revelation chapters 13 and 17. In chapter 17 we read that “the ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast... These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them” (verses 12, 14). Clearly, this end-time power will be around when Christ returns.

The Old Testament book of Daniel reminds

What the world appears to be witnessing now is the end of the American era in the Middle East, ironically exactly 50 years to the month after the British were forced out of the region.

us that God is behind the rise and fall of nations. “He removes kings and raises up kings” (Daniel 2:21). He told the Israelites that if they broke His commandments and turned away from Him, He would “break the pride of [their] power” (Leviticus 26:19).

The United States and Britain are descendants of the ancient Israelites, specifically the tribe of Joseph (for proof of this, request our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*).

God, through His servant Jacob, or Israel, promised Ephraim and Manasseh, the two sons of Joseph and grandsons of Israel, that they would become, in turn, a great “multitude of nations” and a great single nation. The multitude of nations, the British Empire, came first; the great single nation, the United States, replaced the British Empire and Commonwealth as the world’s preeminent power after World War II.

Trigger event begins breakdown of power

In 1956, Britain saw the pride of its power broken in the Suez Canal crisis that led directly to the collapse of Great Britain as a major global power. Britain had been the world’s dominant superpower for two centuries. It was a proud nation that had forgotten its God. The same is true of the United States today. Most Americans have failed to look to God since Sept. 11, preferring to rely on U.S. military superiority. But they are now finding that being the world’s sole superpower does not guarantee victory.

After the British withdrawal from the Middle East, the United States and the Soviet Union, the two post-World War II superpowers, got heavily involved. Washington became Israel’s chief backer and supplier, while Moscow supported the radical Arab nationalist states. The rising tide of Arab nationalism, led by Egypt’s Gamal Abdel Nasser, swept the former colonial powers away.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, the United States was the only superpower continuing to dominate the region.

Then war with Iraq came, a protracted conflict that has not gone well for America and her allies.

Today it isn’t Arab nationalism



Reuters/Namir Noor-Eideen

U.S. armored vehicle patrols a road in Baghdad. Why has the world’s greatest military power failed to win in Iraq?

that is pushing against America. The region’s populace has long since tired of the nationalist Arab politicians that overthrew the feudal monarchs in the region. Many of the new leaders have turned out to be far more corrupt than the old were and they are generally more cruel and oppressive.

Today’s Middle East is again seeing sweeping changes. This time the rising tide that is engulfing the region is Islamic fundamentalism. Tired of the empty promises of failed politicians, ordinary people are turning increasingly to religious leaders.

Ironically, the United States has given a boost to Islamic fundamentalism by invading Iraq. Saddam Hussein’s Iraq, though cruel and despotic, was actually a buffer to Islamic fundamentalism in Iran and Afghanistan. Now the fundamentalists are active in Iraq and nations to the west of the strife-torn country. There seems no end to the spread of the power of radical Islam.

Why has the world’s greatest military power failed to win?

Why America hasn’t won

The United States of America has been the world’s sole superpower since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of communism almost 20 years

ago. For five decades, Israel has been the strongest military power in the Middle East.

Yet both military powers are no longer winning in the same region of the world.

“What are we to make of this?” asks Andrew J. Bacevich in *The American Conservative* magazine. In his article, “The Islamic Way of War,” Mr. Bacevich, a professor of history and international relations at Boston University, asks: “How is it that the seemingly weak and primitive are able to frustrate modern armies only recently viewed as all but invincible? What do the parallel tribulations—and embarrassments—of the United States and Israel have to tell us about war and politics in the 21st century? In short, what’s going on here?”

“The answer to that question,” continues Mr. Bacevich, “is dismayingly simple: The sun has set on the age of unquestioned Western military dominance. Bluntly, the East has solved the riddle of the Western Way of War. In Baghdad and in Anbar Province as at various points on Israel’s troubled perimeter, the message is clear: Methods that once could be counted on to deliver swift decision no longer work.

“For centuries, Western military might underpinned Western political

dominion everywhere from Asia to Africa to the New World... Through much of the last century, nowhere was this Western military preeminence more in evidence than in the Middle East. During World War I, superior power enabled the British and French to topple the Ottomans, carve up the region to suit their own interests, and then rule it like a fiefdom. Until 1945, European machine guns kept restive Arabs under control in Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Palestine."

After World War II, Arab nationalist movements in the Middle East and anticolonial sentiment elsewhere ended the domination of the European powers not only in the Middle East, but around the world.

Suez has often been described as the British lion's "last roar." After the Egyptians seized control of the Suez Canal, a combined Anglo-French-Israeli military force attacked Egypt. Although they won militarily, international pressure against them mounted. When the Eisenhower administration failed to support the military action, the two European powers withdrew. It signaled the end of their once great empires.

U.S. reaching tipping point?

Now the United States seems to be going the way of its predecessor, Great Britain.

In 1956 the British failed to see the broad sweep of history, to understand the thrust of Arab nationalism. The United States made the same mistake a decade later in Vietnam.

To many Americans, the war was a conflict to contain the spread of communism. To many Vietnamese, who had just freed themselves from French colonial rule, Americans were another colonial power like the French, an alien culture trying to impose its will on them. They fought to rid themselves of Western domination, more than to establish communism.

In Iraq, the United States and its Western coalition partners again are failing to see clearly what is happening here. Not just in Iraq, but throughout the region we see the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, which began with the Iranian revolution of 1979.

The world's other superpower, the Soviet Union, was brought down

by a group of Islamic radicals called the Taliban after a decade of fighting in Afghanistan. The allies of these same people struck a humiliating blow against the United States on Sept. 11 five years ago, and have been striking at Western targets ever since. Whatever low-level presence they may have had in Iraq before the U.S.-led invasion, al-Qaeda now operates within the country, gaining followers as it stands up to the Western powers.

Islamic extremism has also been a decisive factor in bringing Hamas to power in the Palestinian territories and in the recent gains by Hezbollah against Israel.

America may spend more on its military than most other nations combined, but this does not guarantee American victory in any conflict. Nor does it mean that the world will continue to be dominated by the United States.

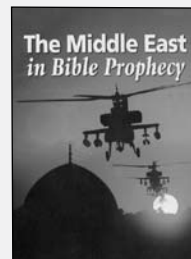
As Mr. Haass puts it in his article: "Force is not terribly useful against loosely organized militias and terrorists

who are well armed, accepted by the local population and prepared to die for their cause."

Islamic fundamentalism seems set to triumph across the Middle East, heralding the end of the American era in the region. ❖

Recommended Reading

To better understand the roots of the conflict between Islam and the West, request a free copy of *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy*. This fully illustrated booklet takes you on an eye-opening journey through history and the Bible to grasp the roots of this conflict, and where it will lead.



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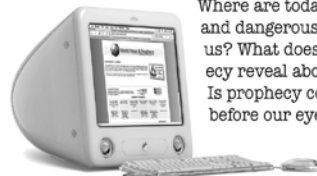
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This eye-opening site offers you a perspective you won't find anywhere else—the perspective

of God's Word, the Bible. Here's some of what you'll find:

- Articles analyzing world news in the light of Bible prophecy.
- An online blog discussing the latest news and trends.
- Audio discussion (podcasts) of what's happening in the world around us.
- Links to significant news items from hundreds of news sources around the world.
- Free booklets to help you better understand Bible prophecy.

To understand the meaning behind the news and where the world is headed, visit us at www.wnponline.org today!



Great Britain off the Map of Europe?

Bureaucrats in Brussels have big plans for Great Britain. If carried out, these particular plans will seriously undermine British national identity and sovereignty—and further submerge the nation into the European Union. What are the potential implications of the revelation of this latest challenge to British sovereignty?

by John Ross Schroeder

We live in an increasingly borderless world. Consider the Internet. E-mail and Web sites transcend geographical borders and no businessperson or banker in America gives a second thought to contacting a colleague in Australia about the possibility of a massive exchange of funds between the two countries.

Transactions in our world today go far beyond the geographical limits of yesterday. This is a time marked by globalization in business and banking. So in the present climate of technology transcending geography we can understand how potentially massive changes to the European political map might become more easily acceptable to the general public. Yet political borders have by no means lost their importance.

Sometimes the most significant news stories only reach two or three national newspapers in Britain and are left off the usual wire services. This happens to be one!

The Sunday Telegraph is one of the most respected newspapers in the United Kingdom. One headline story on Sept. 3 was a real shocker. It read: “New EU Map Makes Kent Part of the Same Nation as France.”

Planned transnational regions

EU plans are for Britain to be divided into five “eurozones.” Inhabitants of the southeastern counties of Kent and East Sussex are projected to be part of *Transmanche* region joining up with Northern France. Eastern England would be “attached” to certain parts of Germany and the Nordic countries plus the Low Countries of Holland and Belgium.

The Western part of Britain would be called the Atlantic region, also including portions of Spain, France and Portugal. According to the overall scheme, Northwestern Scotland is slated to join Iceland, Greenland, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

The European Union claims that its directives call for all member states to bring their cartographic infor-

mation into sync with the European Commission.

According to *The Sunday Express*, apparently “Article 23 of the directive gives the Commission full access to all spatial data currently held by member states, while Article 26 gives the Commission powers to create a new computer infrastructure to collect and co-ordinate data overseen by a European agency” (Sept. 3).

Further, “under the plans the EU will control and harmonise all spatial data such as place names, administrative units and maps, which names of areas, regions, localities, cities, suburbs, towns ... or any geographical or topographical feature of public or historical interest *will be under EU control rather than national governments*” (ibid., emphasis added throughout).

Do we realize just where these plans may be leading? If this information is anywhere near to being accurate, we should all note that even the military implications of such data are frightening to contemplate should allegiances change radically in the future.

The practical implications

This radical redrawing of the map of Europe has far-reaching practical implications. For instance, its implementation would smooth the



“A little more than 60 years ago Hitler planned to crush the British and force us into his new Nazi super-state”—Sunday Express editorial.

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“This new threat from the EU to break Britain down into a series of five ‘transnational’ regions may not be made from the barrel of a gun, but it is equally unacceptable”—Sunday Express editorial.

way for a European Union-wide property tax embracing all member states. British Conservative Party spokesmen commented that EU chiefs were pursuing an agenda “to undermine national identities and impose a *United States of Europe by stealth*” (ibid.).

Both *The Sunday Telegraph* and *The Sunday Express* published separate editorials highlighting the seriousness of the overall problem. The latter paper headlined its opinion piece with the words, “We Must Fight Europe’s Bid to Take Away Our Freedom.”

The text that followed stated: “A little more than 60 years ago Hitler planned to crush the British and force us into his new Nazi super-state. Napoleon Bonaparte had a similar plan a century earlier. *This new threat from the EU to break Britain down into a series of five ‘transnational’ regions may not be made from the barrel of a gun, but it is equally unacceptable.*”

The editorial concluded with these sobering words: “We have fought hard for our national identity and self respect. *We must never give it away.*”

Actually there are even greater reasons for Britain to maintain its national identity. Our Anglo-Saxon and Celtic peoples are descended from the patriarchs of Genesis and have from time to time played a significant historical role in the world beginning with the biblical accounts of the patriarchal fathers Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

(To understand both the history and the prophetic overtones for the future, request a free copy of the booklet *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*.)

Can Britain meet this challenge?

Whether present-day Britain can rise to the occasion is an open question. Popular commentator Mark Steyn wrote on the *Western Standard* Web site: “At some point soon, we’re going to be asking: *Who lost Britain?* In the weeks after last year’s tube bombing [July 2005], I doubted that the clarion call for a reassertion of ‘British identity’ would last, and so it proved.

“By the first anniversary, Britain was back in its peculiarly resistant multicultural mush in which the proper reaction to such unfortunate events is to abase oneself even more abjectly before the gods of cultural relativism. What matters after



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*This radical redrawing of the map of Europe has far-reaching practical implications... British Conservative Party spokesmen commented that EU chiefs were pursuing an agenda “to undermine national identities and impose a *United States of Europe by stealth*.”*

mass slaughter on the Underground is not the wound to the nation, but the potential for hurt feelings of certain minorities” (Aug. 28, 2006).

While Mr. Steyn’s commentary wasn’t written specifically in reaction to the potential redrawing of the map of Europe and Britain, the stated principles have the same broad application as if it were.

Mr. Steyn went on to comment on Melanie Phillip’s new book *Londonistan* (reviewed in the August 2006 issue of *World News and Prophecy*). He called Britain “a husk of a nation in which darker forces have set up shop, and in which establishment complacency, hard-left multiculturalism and ever more Europeanized bureaucracy *has made it all but impossible for the state to rouse itself*” (ibid.).

Contemporary 20th-century history may also shed some light on this dilemma. Consider the following historical/prophetic scenario.

Churchill’s warnings in the 1930s

After the British capitulation to Hitler’s wishes at Munich, Churchill said to the House of Commons on Oct. 5, 1938: “And do not suppose that this [Munich] is the end. This is only the beginning of the reckoning. This is the first sip—the first foretaste of a bitter cup which will be offered to us year by year—*unless by a supreme recovery of moral health and martial vigour we arise and take our stand for freedom, as in the olden time.*”

Earlier Adolf Hitler had written the following in *Mein Kampf* during his imprisonment in the 1920s: “When dealing with a nation which has lost all force of character owing to its having given way spontaneously, he will be entitled to expect that his fresh but piecemeal demands will not be considered worth resisting by the nation from which they are made” (quoted by Winston Churchill, *Step by Step*, p. 343, section originally

published March 24, 1939).

Mark Steyn concluded his commentary with the astute observation that “the British government has a strategy for southern Iraq, *but not for southern England.*” Given this latest revelation of a revolutionary recasting of the map of Europe, his conclusions may prove highly prophetic.

Steyn continued: “Britain’s language, culture, legal system and political tradition have been the greatest single force for good in shaping the modern world.” This assessment may be judged a bit too generous, but a core of basic truth is still there.

He continued: “But discarding its own inheritance and yoking its future to a Eutopian pseudo-federation has left it [Britain] constitutionally (in every sense) incapable of resisting the depredations of more motivated forces. *Unless things change in a big way, there won’t always be an England.*”

Another commentator who helps us appreciate Churchill’s genius is Richard Holmes. Mr. Holmes is, in the words of *Mail on Sunday* editor Max Hastings, “a supremely skilful military historian.” His Churchill series on BBC TV proved eye-opening and illuminating.

Mr. Holmes observed that “by the time Winston [Churchill] died [in January 1965] Britain had become a land in which such a man as he would never again find



No more British leaders like Winston Churchill in time of serious national need? That’s not a very comforting thought.

room to flourish, with a popular culture increasingly inimical to his values, and likely therefore not to notice or properly appreciate his achievements” (*In the Footsteps of Churchill*, 2005, p. 347).

No more British leaders like Winston

Churchill in time of serious national need? That’s not a very comforting thought. The biblical prophet Isaiah said a time would come when God would take away the national heroes.

The problems we face today

The news has recently surfaced that “Labour [is] ready to surrender more power to Brussels” (*Daily Mail*, Sept. 22, 2006). “*Britain is poised to surrender to another EU grab of its sovereignty* in a policy u-turn, this time on law and order. The government will today begin talks on transferring control of sentencing for serious crimes, court procedures and even the rights of crime suspects.” Are the principles of the Magna Carta in danger? They certainly seem so.

The editorial in that same edition of the *Daily Mail* firmly stated: “They never stop. They never give up. Though the EU constitution is supposedly dead, the federalists are still seeking to destroy the sovereignty of nation states.”

Real reasons exist as to why these dangers to Britain’s identity and sovereignty have largely escaped the attention of most of the British public. There is a rational explanation as to why Britons have not given any sustained attention to the warnings of a small cadre of journalists who, in their turn, have been crying out about these dangers for many years.

In their recent book, authors Christopher Booker and Richard North targeted the basic reasons. They wrote in the preface: “The form of government it [the EU and its predecessors] created was unique because it was designed to place the nation states which belonged to it under a ‘supranational’ power, unaccountable to any electorate, ruling its citizens through the agency of each country’s own national authorities.

“Although the nation states [of Europe] and their institutions of government remained outwardly intact, all these institutions from heads of states and parliaments to civil services and judicial systems, in reality *became increasingly subject to the decisions and laws of the new power* [now called the EU] *that was above them all.*

“*It was because the system worked from behind the scenes* through the familiar landscape of existing national institu-
(See “GREAT BRITAIN,” page 15)

A Pan-German Plan

Who or what nation may be behind this major alteration of the political map? Why should the national boundaries of Europe have to be altered?

Back in 1995 former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl referred to a region of England by the ancient name of Mercia. This caused an uproar and a major debate in the British House of Lords. Some members of the House understood what was meant—Mercia might become a province of a United States of Europe.

The Sept. 3 *Sunday Telegraph* feature article pinpointed Germany as the principal country pushing what one observer called a “conspiracy of cartographers.” It noted that “the Conservative Party [in Britain] fears that the Germans, who are among the most vocal supporters of transnationality, will use it as a tool to dismantle the nation states by strengthening and enhancing the regional templates when they [the Germans] take over the EU presidency next year [2007].” It has been viewed as “the first step of a Berlin-inspired masterplan.”

Last June, German Federal cabinet minister Wolfgang Tiefensee stated: “Even if scepticism about Europe is sometimes widespread and the work on a constitution for Europe needs to regain momentum, there is the great hope underlying the goal of a United Europe that we can permanently overcome old borders” (*Sunday Express*, Sept. 3).

This insightful piece added that “transnational regions are key to Germany’s masterplan for its six-month EU presidency starting next May. It wants to forward a ‘territorial agenda framework’ to extend transnationality and facilitate transEuropean territorial integrity.”

John Ross Schroeder

The Worldwide Crisis of Overweight and Obesity

If you are not overweight, you may think you do not need this information. And, if you are even a little overweight, chances are this isn't a comforting subject to spend time reading about. Yet because the problem is so prevalent in our world, you need to be informed. It truly will have a bearing on your future, whatever nation you call home.

by Cecil E. Maranville

The world's serious problems include nuclear arms issues, terrorism, lack of water, AIDS and overpopulation. Probably, most people would not remotely suspect that overweight and obesity should also be on any list of major concerns. Likely, we'd put it on a list of "Western world problems," you know, "rich peoples' troubles." But we would be wrong!

How serious is the problem? "The World Health Organization [WHO] has said obesity is *the biggest unrecognized health problem in the world*" ("Obesity a World-Wide Hazard," BBC, Dec. 22, 2000, emphasis added throughout).

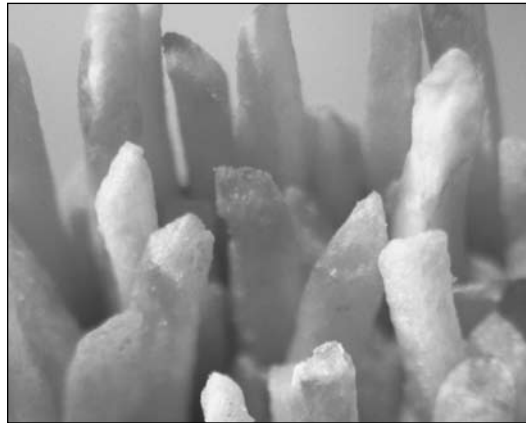
The same release estimated that more than 75 percent of women over 30 are now overweight "...in countries as diverse as Barbados, Egypt, Malta, Mexico, South Africa, Turkey and the United States. Estimates are similar for men, with over 75 per cent now overweight in...Argentina, Germany, Kuwait, New Zealand, Samoa, and the United Kingdom."

Would you think that India has this problem? It does. With rising incomes, people are choosing diets of fast foods (including pizza and burgers). Nearly half of its 1.1 billion people are under 25, and they increasingly work at jobs that do not require physical labor. Now 35 million have diabetes, and the WHO estimates that will double in only 25 years.

Add Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Latin America and even Russia and China to the list of nations plagued with overweight and obesity.

AIDS, commonly known as "the slims disease" in Africa, is causing an unusual backlash there. People seek to put on weight in order to demonstrate that they do not have AIDS, causing them to suffer other health problems that can be just as deadly.

The cost in the United States alone of dealing with health issues caused by overweight and obesity is over \$130 billion dollars a year. The costs will only rise, greatly burdening the health-care system.



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What role do fries and other fast foods play in this growing crisis?

The WHO puts the worldwide total of overweight people at more than 1 billion, and the problem is increasing so fast that the figure will be 1.5 billion in less than 10 years.

"The sheer magnitude of the...problem is staggering," warned Catherine Le-Galès Camus, WHO assistant director of Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health in a UN News Service release (Sept. 22, 2005).

Verifying that this is not a Western or wealthy nation problem exclusively, she added, "The rapid increase of overweight and obesity in many low- and middle-income countries foretells an overwhelming chronic disease burden in these countries in the next 10 to 20 years, if action is not taken now."

Increasingly a problem of children

Health issues related to blood sugar used to be mainly problems of senior citizens, but not any longer. Indeed, the WHO estimated in 2004 that one in 10 schoolchildren worldwide is overweight. Type 2 diabetes was unheard of in children only 20 years ago, but now it is common and increasing rapidly.

"The World Health Organization has said obesity is the biggest unrecognized health problem in the world"—BBC.

“Research indicates that in some *parts of Africa*, fatness and obesity afflicts more children than malnutrition does—*sometimes four times as many*” (“Obesity Statistics of Obese Children,” www.annecollins.com).

The same article reports a greater than 25 percent overweight or obesity rate in 4-year-olds in Egypt. In Zambia and Morocco’s 4-year-olds, the rate is 15 to 20 percent. More than a quarter of the 4- to 10-year-olds in Chile, Peru and Mexico are overweight or obese. Nearly 13 percent of all American children are.

“Childhood obesity is like a massive tsunami headed toward the United States,” warns David Ludwig, pediatric endocrinologist and director of the obesity program at Children’s Hospital in Boston (Nanci Hellmich, “Obesity Threatens Life Expectancy,” USA Today, March 16, 2005). Overweight and obesity could actually cause the life expectancy in the United States to head downward for the first time since the government began to keep statistics in 1900!

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) strongly advocates changing U.S. school policies to prevent obesity among children and teens. The CDC publishes a brochure that lays out a 10-point strategy, encompassing staff and students alike, urging them to eat better and to become more active. It notes, “Since 1980, the percentage of overweight children ages 6 to 11 has doubled, and the percentage of overweight adolescents ages 12 to 19 has tripled.”

Throughout the world, more people are moving from the farm to the city. By doing this they decrease their activity levels and at the same time change their diets to fewer fruits, vegetables, grains and less lean meat but more fats and simple carbohydrates.

How the body processes sugar

Our bodies break down all carbohydrates into simple glucose, which the bloodstream carries to the muscle and fat cells to burn or to store for future energy needs.

Insulin, a hormone produced by the pancreas, accompanies the glucose and helps the cells process it. The insulin attaches to receptors in the cell wall, and its presence activates other receptors to absorb the glucose. In a healthy person, the pancreas releases the right amount of

insulin needed to process whatever food he consumes. Without insulin, a person could literally starve, even though he is eating plenty of food, because his body wouldn’t be able to put it to use.

The type of food we eat makes a difference in insulin output too. “Fast foods” typically demand rapid production of more insulin, which is followed by a “crash” of blood glucose levels a few hours later, causing a sensation of weakness and hunger.

Think of a fire fueled by handfuls of dry grass. The grass burns quickly, causing a sudden flash of energy output, but followed by a rapid reduction in light or heat. Contrast that with a chunk of wood that burns more slowly and puts out energy for a longer period.

Continuing the analogy, the rapid-burning fuels include refined carbohydrates, such as bagels, white bread, white rice, regular pasta, sodas and sweets. Starchy vegetables, including potatoes, work in a similar way. Diets with much of these types of food are terribly unhealthy, stressing the body and encouraging overeating.

Good eating is not a matter of simply cutting out these foods, but rather of consuming a balanced diet. The clear trend in the developed and developing world alike is toward diets loaded with these potentially harmful foods. Combined with jobs and lifestyles that are ever less active, we see the result in the alarming worldwide weight crisis.

In overweight or inactive people, cells do not respond quickly or efficiently to insulin’s presence. This results in the pancreas pumping out more insulin to compensate. Eventually, the pancreas is overworked and cannot supply enough insulin. When the cells aren’t taking the glucose from the bloodstream, the effect is a rise in blood sugar.

Health risks to the overweight

What problems occur when the blood has too much sugar in it? The body gains weight. Being overweight triggers a host of serious problems, including:

- Type 2 diabetes.
- Heart disease and stroke.
- Cancer (esophagus, colon, kidney, uterus and breast).
- Sleep apnea.
- Osteoarthritis.
- Gallbladder disease.

- Fatty liver disease (including cirrhosis).

The good news is that you can lower your health risk by losing as little as 10 to 20 pounds.

Conversely, it takes only 20 to 30 extra pounds to cause a significant loss in the body’s ability to use insulin properly. Doctors are warning people to take immediate action when their blood sugar count exceeds 100 to stave off these health problems and to extend their lives.

Glorify God in your body

God instructs us on eating and exercise habits. We are to take responsibility for keeping our bodies as healthy as possible, respecting the fact that God actually holds us accountable for doing so.

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” That is, we are not free to do whatever we please with our health!

Become attuned to your eating and your activity habits. When hunger strikes, is it because you need food or because your body isn’t using food properly? Too often, it’s the latter.

Parents, feed your children the foods that their bodies will use, rather than “fast foods” that the body burns quickly. And, get your children active! You will enrich and perhaps even save their lives. For every two hours per day in front of the TV, the risk of developing diabetes goes up 14 percent, writes Hallie Levine in *Redbook* (“Diabetes Crisis: Are You Next?” <http://redbook.ivillage.com>).

Exercise provides obvious benefits of burning off the calories we take in, and it is especially important in an increasingly inactive lifestyle. A lesser-known benefit is that exercise increases the cells’ sensitivity to insulin, triggering the consequent processing of blood sugar.

We have some excellent material that can help you. Request or download our free booklet *Making Life Work* from www.wnponline.org and see the article from our sister publication, *The Good News*, titled, “Follow a Healthy—and Biblical—Diet” at www.gnmagazine.org/issues/gn43/biblicaldiet.htm. ❖

Earthquake in Hawaii Shows We Are Still Not Prepared for a Disaster

Hawaii survived Oct. 15's 6.7 earthquake, but the immediate aftermath was a reminder of how vulnerable our modern world is to disasters of all kinds.

by Melvin Rhodes

I will always remember the exact time! It was 7:07 a.m. when the earthquake struck. That was the time on the clock, and it will stay in my mind forever.

It's not every day that you get to experience an earthquake. When you do, you don't forget where or when it happened or how you felt at the time.

My first thought was to move to somewhere safe while calling for my wife to make sure she was OK. She was. Our first shared thought after that was wondering if a tsunami would follow.

We were only a few yards away from a narrow strip of beach and the Pacific Ocean on the Hawaiian island of Maui. It was Sunday, Oct. 15, and the 50th state had just been struck by the third worst earthquake in its history, 6.7 on the Richter scale.

Remembering the devastation of the tsunami in December 2004, naturally this was a concern. We weren't the only ones concerned. Dozens of people came out of their accommodations looking out to sea, trying to decide what to do.

When the quake struck, the power went off. That meant there was no television so we could not turn on the news to see what was happening. The only radio station I could find on my battery-operated radio was broadcasting prerecorded rock music from the big island and didn't seem inclined to give us much news. We were in the dark—relying on secondhand reports that might only be rumor!

We did hear that the power was off all over the island. It would be five hours before power would be restored to our hotel. Five hours! When the power goes off in Ghana, a developing country, good hotels switch to their own generators within a couple of minutes. Clearly, hotels on Maui were unprepared for an earthquake.

Our first challenge was finding a drugstore. I had spent a few hours the previous day in the island hospital and urgently needed to fill a prescription for some painkillers. The power was off, so the drugstore was closed. Without computers, prescriptions couldn't be filled. One lady was hysterical—without his medicine, her husband would soon die!



Reuters/Hugh Gentry

People wait outside Honolulu International Airport after Oct. 15 earthquake.

I reflected on the fact that, 30 years ago, we didn't need a computer to fill a prescription. It also struck me that more than five years after Sept. 11th and one year after Hurricane Katrina, we are still not prepared for a disaster!

The airlines were thrown into chaos for a couple of days. Two of the biggest carriers canceled all flights, leaving thousands of people unable to catch their scheduled flights home. No compensation was offered, but when we missed our flights due to my hospital stay, we had to pay more for a single fare home than we had paid for our original round-trip fare.

One visitor, stranded at Honolulu's airport, quoted in the following day's *USA Today*, described Hawaii as "an oxymoron. It's paradise, but it's hell." Even the most perfect place can suddenly change when nothing works!

However, nobody was killed and only a handful suffered minor injuries. I can't say it was a disaster—more of an inconvenience really.

But it still brought home how poorly prepared we are for a real disaster, for another Katrina or 9/11 or worse! ❖

It struck me that more than five years after Sept. 11th and one year after Hurricane Katrina, we are still not prepared for a disaster!

“WHAT YOU SEE,” (Continued from page 16)

Let’s appreciate, as John did, that the Greeks’ worldview consisted of life in two spheres: 1) that which encompassed their physical lives, that which is unreal and a world of shadowy patterns, thus merely a copy of 2) what truly is!

Plato entertained how one gets out of this world of shadows and into the world of solid patterns, into the world of eternal realities. He held to the belief that in the unseen world was the perfect pattern of everything and that all on earth were weak copies. And the great reality, the supreme idea, the pattern of all patterns and the form of all forms, was God. The unresolved dilemma, however, was how to exit this world of cheap imitations and enter the world of reality!

Now Plato’s reasoning did not bring him a revealed answer to what he perceived. John answered those ancient minds and his answer opens the door for us to focus on something greater than the troubling headlines of today. He speaks of Jesus as the One who cuts a hole in human history, this world of shadowy copies, thus giving us a peek into the real world of glory.

God inspired John to record the miracles of Jesus as not merely acts caught in time, but a window cut into eternity. To John, Jesus’ actions are never isolated events, but they are continuous insights into what the Word and God always are, always were and always do.

In a sense, it is a continuous unfolding mural of God’s glory (paraphrasing *Barclay’s Commentary on the Gospel of John*, Volume 1, Revised Edition, pp. 8-10).

John is just like the little boy in the opening story. God’s glory is pervasive and everywhere, if only our eyes are open! A man in some ivory tower isolated from world events does not write this. This is the very man whose colleagues had been brutally martyred, who had seen loved saints succumb to religious deception and who would see the rise of the bestial Emperor Domitian.

True quality of existence

Consider that when John mentioned the miracle of Jesus turning the water into wine at Cana (John 2), he was showing how Christ “manifested His glory” (verse 11) to open portals to a world of

incredible abundance and endless quality. When Christ miraculously fed the 5,000 people (John 6), it was merely a prelude to introducing Himself as the “true bread from heaven” (verse 32), not a copy or pattern, but the real thing about whom the Greek intellectuals could only guess.

This event is not simply captured in time on a knoll in Galilee for one particular crowd, but is what the glorious Kingdom of God is always about. It fills people with answers and solutions (verse 35).

Again, the miracle surrounding the blind man of John 9 is not isolated from God’s glory and workings (verse 4), but is the pivot point to Christ declaring, “I am the light of the world” (verse 5). It is He who is real, true and always. It is He who brings the vision of a Kingdom, power and glory that is only used for good. Again, when Christ resurrected His friend, Lazarus, this miracle was not fossilized in the footprints of a dusty road in Bethany. “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25) is a hope-filled message for always and for everybody.

As humans, we tend to think of eternity as if it’s simply extra innings of what we’re already experiencing, instead of realizing the glorious quality of the life to come. Living in a broken world can dull our senses to what God has in store for us: Relationships that are forever positive, a spectrum of sights infinitely beyond what human eyes can see, dynamic activity serving in God’s Kingdom, all and forever toward one end—cooperation, peace and unity.

The simple truth of the matter is that God’s glory is the composite of His nature and all His attributes raised to the *n*th degree that attest to one grand conclusion: He wants to fill our lives with a personal relationship with Him, which is direct, deep and lasting.

You see, God created people to have a relationship with Him. But to say “relationship” almost sounds like an end in itself. The “relationship” is the funnel by which we can come to experience and enjoy His love.

That’s why Christ taught His followers to pray, “Your kingdom come.” By doing so, we are acknowledging before our Maker that we do understand the real world that He invites us to experience and, in turn, we ask Christ to return and illuminate this world of shadows and cheap imitations. We literally



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We should be like the little boy who would wager a whole barrel of apples based on his awareness of God’s glorious presence.

give glory to Him as we resonate with our prayers, praise and life’s actions the words of Revelation 22:17: “And the Spirit and bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’”

Which way are we running?

Today, right now, some of you reading this column are running away from something rather than running toward the fullness of God’s eternal glory! Some are paralyzed over world events and discouraging headlines that seemingly have no end.

Others of us are seeing negative headlines in our own lives because we don’t think anyone cares. And, because we are still focused on what we are running away from, we haven’t fully received what God wants to give us—Himself, and that is everywhere and also in any place. God wants to give us barrels of, not just single, apples!

But glory doesn’t come cheaply. I would like to tell you about a friend of mine. His name is Merlen. For the pres-

ent, his “classroom for glory” comprises an 8- by 12-foot cell. Oh, yes, he has some heavy-duty homework. But he’s no longer running from something, or running over others, but running toward glory. Sometimes we ask ourselves, “Why me, why now?” Allow Merlen to answer that query from a recent letter he sent me.

“I know that you have concerns because of the circumstances I have placed myself in, but please be assured that I am safe, at peace and have never been so free in my life. Had the Lord chosen another time to call me, for instance, if I were out there; I fear that I would be too busy to learn all that He has assigned me to learn.

“We must not forget, I have 30-odd years of rough edges, which I have to file down. And with His help, I am happy to say that there is a marked difference. But I only boast the Lord and His work, not my own feeble efforts. For I have come to know that outside of His guidance and the Spirit leading, I am truly lost.”

Glory knows no bounds

I love what God is doing with my friend Merlen, and I hope you do as well. God’s glory knows no bounds. It cannot be kept out of a cell and cannot be contained in prison. Additionally, it cannot be snatched from your heart, unless you let it go!

It’s apparent that Merlen is already a practitioner of the everlasting gospel as he gives the glory to God for his current homework assignment and place of learning. I don’t believe for a moment that he is going to settle for “an apple,” but is going for the barrel, because he knows he is not alone. His existence may be isolated from the mainstream of humanity, but can never be isolated from the seamless work of God.

Perhaps the notion of “This is the way, walk in it” (Isaiah 30:21) is best rendered in the simple words of one man who proclaims, “I have never been so free in my life,” because he not only sees beyond the bars, but he sees the barrel of apples as well.

If he can do that, how about us getting beyond the headlines of today? If you do, you can join Merlen because, after all, what you see is what you will receive! ❖



Robin Webber

“**GREAT BRITAIN,**” (Continued from page 10) tions that so few people recognised the immense scale of the change which was taking place [in Europe]” (*The Great Deception: Can the European Union Survive?* 2005, p. vii).

The Bible and Central Europe

If the Bible had nothing to say about end-time activities in Europe, this publication would most likely be silent as well. But both the Old Testament book of Daniel and the New Testament book of Revelation (especially when you put the two together) have a great deal to say about Europe at the time of the end. Note Daniel 2:40-43, Daniel 7:23-25 and Revelation chapters 17 and 18 in particular.

Based on these prophecies, this publication has foretold for years that the time is coming when 10 leaders of core countries will give their sovereignty to a “beast” power for a short time. Revelation reveals that the whole world will be taken in by the coming final restoration of the ancient Roman Empire—backed by a miracle-working religious individual the Bible calls “the false prophet.” Today’s secular concept of a separated church and state will be overcome and the two systems will for a short time join.

The whole story is clearly set out when you know and understand the prophetic information in our free booklets *The Book of Revelation Unveiled, You Can Understand Bible Prophecy* and *Are We Living in the Time of the End?* Copies are available in print or you may download them from our Web site at www.ucg.org/booklets.

The prophetic implications of what is being planned in Europe and Britain are truly frightening. Bureaucrats in Brussels don’t always realize the potential repercussions of their plans and edicts. They can have dire consequences in the future, especially under a more autocratic, federal EU. It could be very important for you to request or download those free booklets today.

Just as the Britain of ancient yesterday was enslaved to Rome, so it appears that modern-day Britain may finally lose its national identity to a major power in Central Europe—perhaps even without the firing of a shot. The actual takeover may prove far more subtle and treacherous than a military conquest. ❖

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“Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,
This is the Way
walk in it. . .” **ISAIAH 30:21**

by Robin Webber

What You See Is What You Will Receive

An eccentric professor thought he might poke fun at a boy engrossed in reading some religious material. The professor teasingly taunted, “Boy, tell me where God is and I’ll give you an apple.”

The boy replied without hesitation, “Sir, I’ll give you a whole barrel of apples if you can tell me where He is not!” The young man had an astute awareness of the overpowering and seamless presence of God in his life.

Which of these perspectives do most people reflect? When our eyes are glued on the media’s 24-hour news cycle, our spirits can spiral downward with the steady onslaught of bad news about Korea, Iraq, Iran, terrorist attacks in world capitals, tensions on Israel’s borders, the latest violence involving innocent schoolchildren, moral sleaze regarding our elected officials and the crime spree right out our front doors.

That’s why Jesus gave two instructions to His followers in Luke 21:36 regarding the swirl of events that would come—1) Watch and 2) pray. When we only look with our eyes, failing to also use our hearts in prayer to seek God’s perspective, we are left with only the apple rather than the barrels of God’s presence.

Jesus asked His followers to pray so as to recognize there’s more to life than meets the eye. That’s why He directs us to set the “eyes of our heart” with this concluding viewpoint in His model prayer, “For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever” (Matthew 6:13).

With that said, let’s tighten our focus. Kingdoms are tangible and power is measurable, but we have to dig deeper to appreciate God’s glory. Why is glory so essential to understand in dealing with the onslaught of troubling world events?

Revelation 14:6-7 speaks of “the everlasting gospel,” revealing four elements of God’s ongoing message that transcends the tangible! They help us understand who God is, His purpose and what emanates from His being in seamless action and reaction: 1) Fear God, 2) give glory, 3) judgment (actions have consequences) and 4) worship.

For this article, we’ll concentrate on the second element. How can we give glory to God?

Awakening our minds and hearts

Let’s understand that God’s gift of glory is ours to embrace, internalize and express—now! Jesus prayed to the Father, “And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one; I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one” (John 17:22-23). Notice the present tense. We have clearly already been touched with God’s glory!

Obviously, we don’t yet have glorified bodies, but we have been invited to begin experiencing God’s glory in our lives. The tension between the present and future elements of God’s gifts runs throughout Scripture. With that said, we come to understand that experiencing God’s glory is not a destination, but a way of traveling.

But this is only a concluding thought of what the apostle John reveals throughout his account. The other Gospel writers speak of wonderful events and actions, but John expressly views Christ’s life through a singular framework—glory. Why is that? John is writing at the end of the first century, and he is endeavoring to connect with a new and expanding Hellenistic audience.

(See “WHAT YOU SEE,” page 14)